

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a therapeutic compound for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease comprising the step of identifying a Src protein inhibitor.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said identifying step comprises the steps of:
 - a) providing a reporter gene operatively linked to a regulatory nucleotide sequence, wherein said regulatory nucleotide sequence regulates Src protein expression;
 - b) introducing a candidate compound; and
 - c) measuring the activity of said reporter gene in response to said candidate compound.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said reporter gene is Src.
4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said regulatory nucleotide sequence is the Src promoter.
5. The method of Claim 2 wherein said regulatory nucleotide sequence regulates a Src protein selected from the group consisting of: human Src and mouse Src.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said Src protein is selected from the group consisting of: human Src and mouse Src.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said Src protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:3.
8. The method of Claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing at least one mammalian cell expressing said Src protein;
 - b) introducing a candidate compound to said mammalian cell; and

- c) measuring the activity of said Src protein in response to said candidate compound.

9 The method of Claim 8, wherein said providing step (a) comprises providing a primary
5 cell culture of neurons.

10 A therapeutic compound identified by the method of Claim 1.

11 A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the therapeutic
10 compound of Claim 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

12 A method for treating Alzheimer's disease comprising the step of administering the
pharmaceutical composition of Claim 11.

15 13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of PP2 and a
pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. A method for treating Alzheimer's disease comprising the step of administering the
pharmaceutical composition of Claim 13.